



# 2020 Park Profile



## Authorization

- 1882: First unsuccessful attempt to establish a Grand Canyon National Park
- 1893: Designated a “forest reserve” by President Benjamin Harrison (Presidential Proclamation #45)
- 1908: Established as Grand Canyon National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt (Presidential Proclamation #794)
- 1919: Designated Grand Canyon National Park by an act of Congress on February 26 (40 Stat 1175)
- 1975: Grand Canyon National Park Enlargement Act enacted by Congress on January 3 (88 Stat 2089) (Public Law 93-620)
- 1979: Designated a World Heritage Site on October 26
- 2019: Designated an International Dark Sky Park (IDSP) by the International Dark-Sky Association in June after being awarded Provisional IDSP status in 2016

## Park Statistics

### Grand Canyon National Park

**Park Size:**

- 1,218,375 acres (493,059 ha)
- 1,904 square miles (4,931 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Length:** 277 river miles (446 km)

**Width:**

- Minimum at Marble Canyon, 600 feet (180 m)
- Average Rim to Rim: 10 miles (16 km)
- Maximum Rim to Rim: 18 miles (28.8 km)

**Depth:** Average 1 mile (1.6 km)

**Elevations:**

- South Rim 7,000 feet (2,100 m)
- North Rim 8,000 feet (2,400 m)

**Volume:** 5.45 trillion cubic yards (4.17 trillion m<sup>3</sup>)

### Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park

**Length:** 277 miles (446 km)

**Average Width:** 300 feet (90 m)

**Minimum Width:** 76 feet (23 m)

**Average Depth:** 40 feet (12 m)

**Greatest Depth:** 85 feet (25.5 m)

**Average Gradient:** 7 feet per mile (1.3 m/km)

**Elevation at Phantom Ranch:** 2,400 feet (720 m)

The Colorado River is 1,450 miles (2,333 km) long from its source in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to the Gulf of California.

# Geology

Grand Canyon National Park preserves an iconic geologic landscape and resources ranging from 1,840 to 270 million years old, including diverse paleontological resources; unconsolidated surface deposits; a complex tectonic and erosion history; and Pliocene to Holocene volcanic deposits. The Colorado River established its course through the canyon about six million years ago and likely evolved from pre-existing drainages to its current course. Geologic processes, including erosion of tributaries and slopes, and active tectonics continue to shape the canyon today. The geologic record in Grand Canyon is an important scientific chronicle and is largely responsible for its inspirational scenery.



# Plant and Animal Life

## Animals

Birds: 450 species

Mammals: 91 species

Fish: 18 species, 5 native

Reptiles and Amphibians: 58 species

Invertebrates: 1,443 species, including 292 butterflies and moths

Exotic (non-native) animals: 27 species

Park Endemic animals, not extirpated: 9 species; 5 butterflies, 1 pseudoscorpion, 1 tarantula, 1 snake, 1 mollusk

Regionally Endemic animals, not extirpated: 5 species; humpback chub, razorback sucker, flannelmouth sucker, Kaibab squirrel, and the Navajo Mexican vole

One reptile, three mammal, and one mollusk species are known only from the Grand Canyon region. At least nine species of insects are endemic to Grand Canyon, and six fish species are endemic to the Colorado River basin.

## Plants

Vascular Plants: 1,747 species

Endemic Plants: 4 species

Exotic (non-native) Plants: 208 species

## Vegetation Formations

6 types: riparian, desert scrub, pinyon/juniper woodland, ponderosa pine forest, spruce/fir forest, and montane meadows/sub-alpine.

## Endangered/Threatened

Animals: California condor, humpback chub, razorback sucker, southwestern willow flycatcher, Mexican spotted owl, Ridgeway's rail, yellow-billed cuckoo, and desert tortoise. There are over 35 species of special concern and former USFWS Category 2 species.

Plants: The sentry milk-vetch (*Astragalus cremnophylax* var. *cremnophylax*) is the only endangered plant in the park. There are no listed threatened plant species. Nine species of special concern (formerly category 2 species) are known, and 25 additional vascular plants are of management concern due to their limited distribution.

## Extirpated Species

Grizzly bear, black-footed ferret, gray wolf, jaguar, Bear Valley sandwort, Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail, roundtail chub, northern leopard frog, and southwestern river otter.





# Human History

The oldest human artifacts found date to the Paleoindian period and are nearly 12,000 years old. Since that time, various cultures have continually used and occupied the park. Archaeological evidence from the following prehistoric culture groups is found in Grand Canyon National Park: Paleoindian, Archaic, Basketmaker, Ancestral Puebloan (Kayenta and Virgin branches), Cohonina, Cerbat, Pai, and Southern Paiute. Historical-period cultural groups include the Hopi, Navajo, Pai, Southern Paiute, Zuni, and Euro-American. The park has recorded 4,615 archaeological resources with intensive survey of approximately 7.5 percent of the park area.

There are 3,391 ancestral sites dating to the prehistoric period recorded in the park. These sites are found in all environmental zones from the rim to the river. There are 453 historic period Native American sites recorded in the park at the present time.

## Historic Resources

### National Historic Landmarks

Individual Buildings: 4  
Districts: 3  
Sites: 1

### National Register of Historic Places

Buildings: 8  
Districts: 10  
Sites: 2  
Structure: 1

## Tribal Partners

Grand Canyon is home to eleven federally recognized tribes with deep history and connection to the Grand Canyon since time immemorial. Tribal governments and communities work closely with park administration and management on a host of programs. Through collaborative projects such as the Desert View Watchtower Intertribal Cultural Heritage Site, the park is working with tribes to provide accurate and culturally appropriate information to visitors. This “First Voice” programming acknowledges the rich and diverse cultural history of the Grand Canyon and celebrates the connections native people have to the Canyon. Tribal lands surrounding the park offer many unique tourism opportunities to visitors planning a trip to the Grand Canyon.



National Register properties include archaeological sites, historic structures, cultural landscapes, and ethnographic resources. Determinations of eligibility have been prepared by both Hopi and Zuni preservation offices identifying elements of the greater Grand Canyon, Colorado River, Bright Angel Creek, and Little Colorado River as a Traditional Cultural Property.

### List of Classified Structures (LCS): 874

LCS includes National Historic Landmark and National Register listed or eligible properties.

## Climate

Climate in Grand Canyon National Park is relatively mild. However, low humidity generally allows large temperature differences between day and night.

### South Rim

Mean High Temperature: 67°F (19.4°C)  
Mean Low Temperature: 28°F (-2.2°C)  
Average Annual Precipitation: 13.01 inches (33.05 cm)  
Total Precipitation in 2020: 5.88 inches (14.93 cm)

### North Rim

Mean High Temperature: 57°F (13.9°C)  
Mean Low Temperature: 31°F (-0.6°C)  
Average Annual Precipitation: 24.48 inches (62.18 cm)  
Total Precipitation in 2020: 8.79 inches (22.33 cm)

### Phantom Ranch

Mean High Temperature: 82°F (27.8°C)  
Mean Low Temperature: 56°F (13.3°C)  
Average Annual Precipitation: 9.73 inches (24.71 cm)  
Total Precipitation in 2020: 2.86 inches (7.26 cm)

# Development

## Buildings

Total: 1,181  
National Park Service: 645  
Concessioners: 536

## Trails

Paved: 35 miles (56.3 km)  
Unpaved: 560 miles (901.2 km)  
Total: 595 miles (957.6 km)

## Roads

Paved: 106 miles (170.6 km)  
Unpaved: 148 miles (238.2 km)  
Total: 254 miles (408.8 km)

## Sewage Treatment Facilities

Total: 4

## Trans-canyon Pipeline

*Water from Roaring Springs to the North and South rims*  
Total: 23 miles (37 km)

## Lodging Units

South Rim: 908  
North Rim: 219  
Phantom Ranch: 15

## Rim Campsites

Mather: 317 family, 7 group, 2 hiker/biker, 2 livestock  
Desert View: 50 family  
North Rim: 90 family, 3 group  
Tuweep: 9 family, 1 group



## Recreational Vehicle Sites

Total: 123

## Visitor Facilities

Visitor centers, museums, theaters, backcountry offices, historic structures, scenic overlooks, accessible rim trails, lodging, campgrounds, dump stations, service stations, restaurants, cocktail lounges, coffee shops, general stores, gift shops, bookstores, clinic, bank, post offices, churches, and a dog kennel. Some facilities are seasonal.

## Visitor Services

Services include educational exhibits, curriculum-based education programs, junior ranger programs, ranger programs and hikes, picnicking, bicycling, bike rentals, self-guided hikes, mule riding, backpacking, fishing, river trips, overnight lodging, camping, camper services, guided bus tours, air tours (outside of park), shuttle bus service, taxi, auto repair, publication sales, gift and grocery sales, law enforcement, and medical and emergency services.

## Concessioners

In Fiscal Year 2020, 22 concessioners grossed approximately \$84.4 million and paid franchise and other fees of approximately \$7.4 million.

# 2020 Visitor and Resource Protection

## Law Enforcement Activities

Total Number of Criminal Cases: 797  
Arrests: 45  
Part I Offenses Investigated: 53  
Part II Offenses Reported: 1,050  
Law Enforcement Jurisdiction: Concurrent

## Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Medical Service Incidents: 693  
Fatalities: 13

## Search and Rescue Incidents (SAR)

Total: 235

## Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR)

Total Contacts: 76,310  
Preventative Actions: 12,541  
Hiker Assists: 332

## Structural Fire Incidents and Responses

Total: 93

## Wildland Fire Incidents and Treatments

Fire Starts Incidents: 9  
Acres treated with wild & prescribed fire: 4,253  
Acres of defensible space treated: 21  
Houses treated for FireWise standards: 11

# 2020 Visitation

## Total Visitation

2020 Total: 2,911,887      2019 Total: 5,974,411      2018 Total: 6,380,495      2017 Total: 6,254,238      2016 Total: 5,969,811

## Shuttle System Passengers

1,142,098 boardings (not passengers)

The shuttle system was implemented in 1974. Year-round shuttle service began March 10, 2000.

## Backcountry User Nights

Total: 49,184

Corridor: 27,103

Other Backcountry Trails: 22,081

Backcountry permits issued: 10,786

Backcountry permits used: 6,592

## Colorado River User Days

*Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek*

Commercial: 53,326

Noncommercial: 69,096

*Diamond Creek to Pearce Ferry*

Noncommercial: 9,797

## Mule Trip Riders

*Xanterra, South Rim*

Phantom Ranch 1 night: 1,267

Phantom Ranch 2 nights: 292

Canyon Vistas: 5,735

*Canyon Trail Rides, North Rim*

One Hour Rim Ride: 1,029

Half Day Inner Canyon Ride: 1,909

Half Day Rim Ride: 121

## Train Passengers

*North-bound boardings*

Total: 83,712



# 2020 Interpretive Services and Activities

## Visitor Centers and Contact Stations

Grand Canyon Visitor Center

Verkamp's Visitor Center

Yavapai Observation Station

Tusayan Ruin and Museum

Desert View Visitor Center

North Rim Visitor Center-Closed in 2020

Kolb Studio

Indian Garden

Phantom Ranch

Headquarters

## Interpretive Walks, Talks, and Programs

144 presentations to 2,160 visitors (1/1/20-3/13/20)

## Environmental Education Programs

236 presentations to 6,828 participants

13,280 Junior Rangers sworn in

## Publications

*50 print publications currently maintained*

Park Unigrids/maps distributed on the South Rim:  
547,200

Pocket Map and Services Guide distributed on the South  
Rim: 775,250

All other brochures: 138,450

*Pocket Map and Services Guide available in eight  
languages.*

## Digital Media

Facebook followers: 641,532

Instagram followers: 752,932

Twitter followers: 161,046

Total nps.gov/grca page views: 17,165,776



# Administration

## FY 2020 Funding

- Operation of the National Park System (ONPS)
  - ONPS Base Operating Appropriation: \$22,182,227
  - ONPS Non-base Funding: \$36,571
- Special Emphasis Program Allocation (SEPAS)
  - FirePro Base: \$1,352,523
  - Construction and Major Maintenance: \$154,591
  - Repair and Rehabilitation: \$426,199

## Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act—80% portion

- (FY-11) \$13,780,061
- (FY-12) \$13,972,969
- (FY-13) \$14,775,466
- (FY-14) \$8,407,057 (collections reduced by LSI buy down)
- (FY-15) \$18,361,846
- (FY-16) \$15,215,281 (collections reduced by Pipeline reserve)
- (FY-17) \$11,739,334 (collections reduced by Pipeline reserve)
- (FY-18) \$16,263,449
- (FY-19) \$15,788,360
- (FY-20) \$16,411,907
- 10 Year Total (FY10-20) \$158,083,588
- Federal Lands Highway Program: \$0

## Income 2020

- Utilities Reimbursable: \$3,956,077
- Quarters: \$1,858,463
- Concession Franchise Fees—20% Portion: \$3,328,025
- Filming and Location Fees: \$2,975
- Donations (monetary): \$1,223,145.23
- Transportation (Shuttle Buses): \$3,125,282
- Other (reimbursable, refundable, etc.): \$1,110,114

## National Park Service Staffing—FY 2020

*Information and distribution of all staff (Permanent, Term, and Seasonal) as of September 2020.*

- Superintendent's Office: 23
- Administration: 21
- Science and Resource Management: 46
- Concessions Management: 19
- Planning, Environment, and Projects: 12
- Facility Management: 112
- Interpretation: 74
- Visitor and Resource Protection: 159
- Fire and Aviation Management: 37

## Total National Park Service Staffing

- (FY-16) 451
- (FY-17) 382
- (FY-18) 452
- (FY-19) 372
- (FY-20) 503

## Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) Program

*Volunteer hours by category*

- Administration: 1,983
- Campground Host: 1,407.5
- Cultural Resource Management: 424.75
- General: 0
- Interpretation/Education: 3,699.25
- Natural Resource Management: 4,527.5
- Protection/Law Enforcement: 13,451.25

*In-Kind Service Amount*

- Total volunteers in park: 405
- Total hours: 26,576.25
- National value of each volunteer hour: \$27.20
- Total in-kind services: \$722,874.00



## Neighbors

Coconino County-AZ  
Flagstaff-AZ  
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area-AZ/UT  
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument-AZ  
Jacob Lake-AZ  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area-AZ  
Mohave County-AZ  
Tusayan-AZ  
Vermilion Cliffs National Monument-AZ  
Williams-AZ  
Valley of Fire State Park-NV  
Garfield County-UT  
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-UT  
Kanab-UT  
Kane County-UT  
Washington County-UT

## Partners and Stakeholders

Arizona Game and Fish Department-AZ  
Arizona Strip Field Office-AZ  
Flagstaff Area National Monuments-AZ  
Kaibab National Forest-AZ  
Pipe Spring National Monument-AZ  
Bryce Canyon National Park-UT  
Kanab Field Office-UT  
Zion National Park-UT

## 11 Traditionally Associated American Indian Tribes

Havasupai Tribe-AZ  
Hopi Tribe-AZ  
Hualapai Tribe-AZ  
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians-AZ  
Las Vegas Band of Paiute Indians-NV  
Moapa Band of Paiute Indians-NV  
Navajo Nation-AZ  
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah-UT  
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe-AZ  
The Pueblo of Zuni-NM  
Yavapai-Apache Nation-AZ

## Arizona Congressional Representatives

Senator Kyrsten Sinema  
Senator Martha McSally/Senator Mark Kelly  
First District Representative Tom O'Halleran  
Fourth District Representative Paul Gosar



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### Superintendent

Edward Keable

### Media Contact

Public Affairs Office  
928-638-7779

### Park Information

928-638-7888

### Website

[www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca)

### Address

Grand Canyon National Park  
P.O. Box 129  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129 USA



Located in northern Arizona, Grand Canyon National Park encompasses 277 miles (446 km) of the Colorado River and adjacent uplands. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, Grand Canyon is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers visitors on the rim. Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.